

**COLORADO CANYONS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA**  
**Mack Ridge Working Group Meeting Minutes**  
**March 13, 2002**

Attendees:

Dan Rosenthal	Kevin Foote	Chris Pipkin	Connie Rosenthal
Bob Anthony	Pat Kennedy	Carol Punkony	Jane Ross
Leonard Bagwell	Tom Lucks	Clark Rieves	Lovell Sasser
Clare Bastable	Neal McKinstry	Lynae Rogers	

**Greetings, Introductions and BLM Overview**

Jane Ross, Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area (CCNCA) Planning and Environmental Coordinator, gave an overview of the Working Group process. Each Working Group has at least one Advisory Council representative as a member(s); provides information to be relayed to the Advisory Council at its regular meetings; needs to establish leadership and not necessarily by an Advisory Council member; and is advised to develop an ongoing schedule for future meetings.

Chris Pipkin, Recreation Technician, described recreational issues in the Mack Ridge area and reminded the Working Group that the area is closed to overnight camping (day-use only). Chris offered that the area is a popular recreational destination for horseback riding, hiking, biking, and running, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) may need to formalize designations for use. There are miscellaneous issues to address, including the fate of the Crow Bottom access road, parking, permitting, events, and land health.

Lynae Rogers, Rangeland Management Specialist, described grazing and land health issues, particularly in the Rustlers Loop area. Irrigated until 1995, the area does support some grazing in three pastures.

**Working Group Discussions**

Group discussion centered on the current trail system and identified some planning issues, including opportunities to expand the system, the importance of anticipating future use, land health issues, and perceived incompatible uses in the area. It was reiterated that, once the area became a National Conservation Area (NCA), all cross-country travel was eliminated.

The mountain bike community has been denied access to Pollock Bench, while horseback riders are allowed. Someone asked whether this action justified trail closures in Mack Ridge to horseback riders, in turn designating them for mountain bike use.

Other potential issues the group may address are mountain biking trails versus cow trails, additional dispersed camping sites, road closures and/or improvements, an additional quarter-mile trail connecting Kokopelli Trail to the road near Mary's Loop, signage providing relative-difficulty ratings for mountain bike trails.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.